

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, and 15-20 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 are amended; Claims 3, 9, and 14 are canceled; and Claims 17-20 are added by the present amendment. Claims 10, 13, 15, and 16 are amended to correct matters of form and to use language consistent with the claims from which they depend, and the changes to Claims 1, 6, and 12 incorporate limitations of canceled Claims 3, 9, and 14, respectively, and are also supported in the originally-filed disclosure at least at Fig. 1, Fig. 6, and at page 14, lines 8-23. New Claims 17-20 are supported in the originally-filed disclosure at least at Fig. 3 and by originally-filed Claim 1. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fellegara, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,845,166, herein "Fellegara"); and Claims 3, 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fellegara in view of Kobayashi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,846, herein "Kobayashi").

The specification is amended to address the objection. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a digital camera and includes:

- a camera body;
- an optical system including a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body;
- a flash device, said flash device secured to said camera body on the first side of said camera body and at a constant distance from said lens; and
- a cover device coupled to said camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including a cover member configured to cover and

uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at the first side of said camera body.

The outstanding Office Action cites Fellegara as teaching every element of Claim 1 and a combination of Fellegara and Kobayashi as teaching the subject matter of Claim 3, which is incorporated into amended Claim 1. Thus, both references will be included in the discussion of amended Claim 1.

Fellegara describes a hybrid camera with a film mode and a removable memory mode. Fellegara describes two optical systems, a silver-halide optical system 14 and a digital imaging optical system 16. As depicted at Fig. 2 and discussed at column 3, lines 44-62 of Fellegara, the electronic flash unit 18 is located on the lens cover 12. As further depicted at Fig. 2, the lens cover 12 and the electronic flash unit 18 thereon extend beyond the camera body 10 of Fellegara when the lens cover is moved to expose the optical systems 14 and 16.

However, as is apparent from the description of Fellegara above, Fellegara does not teach or suggest several features of amended Claim 1 in addition to a cover device configured to cover said flash device, which the outstanding Office Action concedes, at page 4, that Fellegara fails to teach or suggest.

Fellegara does not teach or suggest “a flash device...at a constant distance from said lens,” as recited in amended Claim 1, because, as depicted at Fig. 2 of Fellegara, the electronic flash unit 18 moves along with the cover 12 to uncover the optical systems 14 and 16. Further, Fellegara does not teach or suggest “a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding within a range of said camera body,” as recited in Claim 1, because, as depicted at Fig. 2 of Fellegara, the cover 12 extends beyond the camera body 10 when the optical systems 14 and 16 are uncovered.

Kobayashi was cited in the outstanding Office Action as teaching a cover device for the flash device as recited in Claim 3, which is incorporated in amended Claim 1. Kobayashi describes a compact camera wherein half the camera is covered in a resting position by a camera case 4, cited by the outstanding Office Action as the cover device. However, Kobayashi fails to cure the deficiency of Fellegara with regard to amended Claim 1. As depicted at Fig. 5 and discussed at column 11, lines 49-55, of Kobayashi, the flash projector 8 moves up as the camera case 4 is opened. Thus, Kobayashi does not teach or suggest “a flash device...at a constant distance from said lens,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Because Fellegara fails to teach at least the features of amended Claim 1 discussed above, and, further, Kobayashi fails to cure the deficiencies of Fellegara, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claim 1 and Claims 2, 4, and 5, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 12, while differing in scope and statutory class from Claim 1, include a flash device at a constant distance from a lens and a cover sliding within a range of a camera body. Thus, Claims 6 and 12 patentably define over Fellegara and over the combination of Fellegara and Kobayashi, cited against Claims 9 and 14 which are incorporated in Claims 6 and 12, respectively, for substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to amended Claim 1. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claim 6, Claims 7, 8, 10, and 11, which depend therefrom, Claim 12, and Claims 13, 15, and 16, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claims 17 and 20 depend from Claim 1 and are, therefore, submitted to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 18 is directed to a digital camera and, though differing in scope and statutory class from Claim 1, also includes a flash device at a constant distance from a lens and a cover sliding within a range of a camera body. Thus, like Claims 6 and 12, Claim 18 is asserted to

patentably define over the cited references for substantially the same reasons as amended Claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 18 and Claim 19, which depends therefrom, are patentable over Fellegara and Kobayashi.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

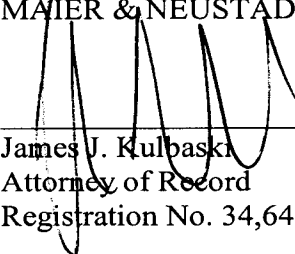
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648